

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1238

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

February 22, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 3054.5 of the Penal Code, relating to parole.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1238, as introduced, Weber. Parole: reentry programs.

Under existing law, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is required to establish 3 pilot programs to provide intensive training and counseling for female parolees to assist in the successful reintegration of those parolees into the community. Existing law authorizes the department to establish and operate a specialized sex offender treatment pilot program for inmates whom the department determines pose a high risk to the public of committing violent sex crimes.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish up to 5 reentry work training programs for parolees between 18 and 24 years of age to assist in community reintegration upon discharge from prison. The reentry programs would include construction training, academic services, counseling and mentoring, and tracking of graduates after completion of the program. The bill would require the department to maintain statistical information related to the reentry programs, as specified. The bill would also provide that these provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2016.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3054.5 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

3054.5. (a) (1) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to the extent existing resources are available or additional resources for these purposes are appropriated, shall establish up to five reentry work training programs.

(2) The reentry programs shall target parolees between 18 to 24 years of age to assist in the successful reintegration of those parolees into the community upon release or discharge from prison so that those young individuals can transform themselves into productive citizens with viable futures.

(b) The reentry programs shall enroll parolees in job training programs as described in Article 4 (commencing with Section 9800) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Code. The reentry programs may include, but are not limited to, the following components:

(1) Construction or rehabilitation of very low income housing, thereby providing training to parolees in the construction trades.

(2) Enrollment of parolees in academic services leading to a high school diploma or equivalency.

(3) Personal counseling and mentoring of parolees from adult role models.

(4) Tracking of graduates after completion of the program to offer additional support.

(c) The department shall maintain statistical information related to these reentry programs, including, but not limited to, the number of parolees served and the rate of return to prison for those parolees. This information shall be provided to the Legislature upon request.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.